

Tiverton Police Department
Child Safety Seat Information

Riding unrestrained is the single greatest risk factor for death and injury among child motor vehicle occupants. Among children ages 14 and under killed in motor vehicle crashes as occupants in 2002, 50 percent were not using safety restraints at the time of the collision.

Misuse is common. An estimated 85 percent of children who are placed in child safety seats and booster seats are improperly restrained. Misuse includes, but is not limited to, using an inappropriate seat for a child's age and size, placing an infant under 1 year or under 20 pounds in a forward-facing seat, not securing the seat tightly in the vehicle and not securing the child correctly in the seat.

The back seat is safest. It is estimated that children ages 12 and under are up to 36 percent less likely to die in a crash if they are in a rear seat of a passenger vehicle.¹

The Tiverton Police Department currently has two Certified Child Safety Seat Technicians:

Cpl. Michael Miguel

Ptln. Daniel Martin

Please feel free to contact either Cpl. Miguel or Ptln. Martin with any questions you may have regarding the installation or use of a child safety seat. Appointment for a safety seat installation may be made by contacting the Tiverton Police Headquarters at (401) 625-6717.

Cpl. Miguel and Ptln. Martin will also be conducting Child Seat Safety Clinics at various locations throughout the course of the year. Please contact the Tiverton Police Headquarters for the next scheduled event.

¹<http://www.safekids.org>

Proper Child Safety Seat Chart			
Warning! All children under the age of 12 should ride in the back of a car. Shoulder straps should never be placed under the arm or behind the back when used by children or adults.			
	INFANT (birth to age 1)	TODDLER (age 1 to age 4)	YOUNG CHILDREN (age 4 to 8)
Age & Weight Guidelines	Birth to 1 year of age and Less than 20 pounds	1 year of age and At least 20 pounds and up to 40 pounds	Less than 8 years of age and At least 40 pounds, but less than 80 pounds and Less than 4-1/2 feet tall
Type of Seat	Infant carrier seat (5 to 22 pounds) or Convertible rear/front facing seat in rear facing position (5 to 30/35 pounds) Check seat for actual rear-facing weight limit.	Convertible rear/front facing seat <i>(Rear facing - between 5 and 30/35 pounds. Check seat weight limits)</i> <i>(Front facing - between 20 and 40 pounds)</i> OR Front-facing only toddler seat (40 pound weight limit with harness system)	Belt-positioning booster seat Low-back booster - use when vehicle has head rest protection in the back seat. High-back booster -use in vehicles without back seat head rests.
Position	Always position your infant rear facing <i>regardless</i> of weight. <i>Your infant must face the rear at least until he or she reaches the age of 1 and is at least 20 pounds.</i>	Positioning depends on the weight of your toddler. If your one-year old is at least 20 pounds, you can face your toddler forward. However, your toddler is safest when facing the rear. It's a good idea to use a convertible seat to its rear-facing weight limit.	Position your child in a booster seat (<i>forward facing only</i>). A booster seat can only be used in a vehicle with lap and shoulder belts in the rear seats.
Harness Straps	Harness straps must be at or below the shoulder level, and fit snugly. Harness clip must be at armpit level.	When front facing in a convertible seat, harness straps must be in the top slots. Harness clip must be at armpit level.	Use both lap and shoulder straps. The lap strap must fit low and tight across the lap and upper thigh area, and the shoulder strap must fit snug across the chest and shoulder.

RI GL LAW – 31-22-22

(f) Any passenger thirteen (13) years of age or older, in any seating position, shall be transported properly wearing a safety belt and/or shoulder harness system.

(g) A motor vehicle operator shall be properly wearing a safety belt and/or shoulder harness system.

***NOTE: Vehicle operator is responsible for compliance of sections (a) (b) and (f) for all passengers.

CHILD RESTRAINT LAW RI GL Law – 31-22-22

Children under age seven (7) years, less than fifty-four (54) inches (4 ft. tall) and weighing less than 80 lbs. (max weight limit of a booster seat) must be transported in any rear seating position of a motor vehicle and properly restrained in a child restraint system.

Children between the ages of 7 through 12 as a passenger in any seating position shall be properly wearing a safety belt.

EXCEPTIONS:

Children under age seven (7) years are exempt from being transported in any rear seating position if:

- (i) the vehicle has no backseat (i.e. pickup, sports car)
- (ii) all rear seating positions are already being utilized by other children.

NOTE:: In the (ii) situation, the oldest child should ride in the front seat if vehicle is equipped with a passenger side air bag.

The fine for a child riding in the front seat or over age 7 years not in a seatbelt is \$50.00. A violation for transporting a child not in a child restraint system must appear in court for this violation.

The following web sites provide further information on child safety seats:

<http://www.safekids.org>

<http://nhtsa.gov>

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/outreach/KidsPage/index.html>